

In claim 18, line 3 and 4, replace "claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10" with --claim 1--.

In claim 20, line 4 and 5, replace "claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10" with --claim 1--.

In claim 22, line 5 and 6, replace "claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10" with --claim 1--.

In claim 24, line 3 and 4, replace "claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10" with --claim 1--.

In claim 26, line 1, replace "claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7" with --claim 1--.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26.

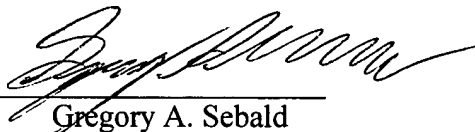
Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at 612.336.4728.

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Dated: March 28, 2000

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Reg. No. 33,280

GAS:vvh